A

SERMON,

ON

THE DEATH

OF

The Honorable Richard Cartwright;

WITH A SHORT ACCOUNT OF

HIS LIFE.

PREACHED AT KINGSTON,

ON THE

3D OF SEPTEMBER, 1815.

BY

JOHN STRACHAN, D. D.

RECTOR OF YORK, UPPER CANADA.

Montreal;

PRINTED BY W. GRAY.

1816.

SERMON.

REVELATIONS, XIVth CHAPTER, 13th VERSE.

"AND I HEARD A VOICE FROM HEAVEN, SAYING UNTO ME, WRITE, BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHICH DIE IN THE LORD FROM HENCEFORTH: YEA, SAITH THE SPIRIT, THAT THEY MAY REST FROM THEIR LABOURS, AND THEIR WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM."

LIVING under the light of the Goſpel, it is difficult for us to conceive the ſtate of darkneſs, uncertainty and diſmay, which good men of ancient times, ignorant of divine truth, but poſſeſſed of ſenſibility and reflection muſt have experienced at the approach of death. Such perſons, at this awful period, were incapable of throwing off entirely all belief in the ſuperſtitions of their age; but the more they reflected upon them, the leſs did they contribute to their tranquillity and conſolation. Amidſt the wanderings of their minds and the

faint hopes of futurity, which they were eager to indulge, it frequently became a queſtion among them, whether annihilation was not preferable to a continuation of exiſtence, if expoſed to the like troubles and afflictions which diſturb the preſent life. To this important queſtion, an anſwer ſeems implied in my text. It pronounces thoſe bleſſed, and thoſe only who die in the Lord: others have no rational grounds to expect that the continuation of their exiſtence, in a future life, ſhall prove a bleſſing, or even more agreeable than the preſent, tho' our merciful Creator will never ſuffer any to periſh, who have acted up to the light that is in them.

When addreſſed to a Chriſtian Congregation, the text, by bleſſing thoſe who die in the Lord, certainly excludes from that bleſſing ſuch as knowing their Redeemer, have rejected him. It is impoſſible that ſuch can inherit the promiſes. Their ſituation is infinitely worſe than that of the good men of ancient times, for they reject the revelations which ſuch men were anxious to obtain, and refuſe that ſalvation which is offered to a ſinful world, by the infinite love of a benevolent Creator.

But this circumſtance, ſo much to be lamented, is not always without a remedy. The greater number of thoſe who are indifferent to religion, are ſo rather from miſunderſtanding its infinite importance and amiable foundations, than from wilful errors, or a preference of

iniquity.

iniquity. To bring ſuch to a due ſenſe of the merits of a crucified Saviour, we ſhould rather appeal to their hearts than their underſtandings; we ought to ſhew that this religion to which they are indifferent, has an intimate connection with all that we know and feel of exiſtence; that it gives the moſt true and comprehenſive views of the nature of man, and of the Supreme Being; that it teaches nothing harſh, nothing revolting to the beſt affections of the heart; that it preſents the moſt noble motives for the regulation of our lives, and the only rule by which we can reach eternal felicity.

It is not by a ſevere and contemptuous tone of argument, that ſuch are to be won, we are to awaken their ſenſibility, to engage their affections, and when we have done this, we have obtained the victory. They will then proceed of themſelves, their errors will vaniſh, for they will diſcover that that Goſpel which they have been accuſtomed to conſider with indifference, is altogether lovely; they will feel themſelves attracted on a nearer view with its irreſiſtible charms, and their hearts will open to the impreſſions of divine grace, which the ſerious peruſal of it can never fail to produce. By carefully reading, and reflecting upon the Goſpel, they will feel themſelves gradually becoming Chriſtians, true and zealous ſervants of God. Their ſouls will be opened to new enjoyments, of which they had formerly no conception. They will be aſtoniſh-

ed

ed at their former torpor and indifference, and that they ſhould have allowed their whole faculties to be abſorbed in preſent objects to the deſtruction of their immortal ſouls. It is by this affectionate appeal to the hearts of thoſe who ſeem indifferent to the Goſpel, by making them experience that the happineſs of living and dying in the Lord, is above all price, that they are reſtored from darkneſs to light. "It is to want of con-
"ſideration that the wicked lives of Chriſtians is to be
"attributed. It would appear impoſſible for men who
"have any reaſonable persuasion of the truth of reve-
"lation impreſſed upon their minds, to be deliberately
"and habitually wicked; for the wrath of God is re-
"vealed from Heaven againſt all ungodlineſs and un-
"righteousneſs of men. Still we find many who would
"think themſelves injured, by being called Infidels,
"who live almoſt in one continued round of diſſipa-
"tion and folly, or are ſo glued to the world, and its
"periſhing concerns, that God appears not in all their
"thoughts. This inconſiſtency between profeſſion
"and practice, in nominal Chriſtians, can only be ac-
"counted for from the want of ſerious reflection, which
"would render their faith a vital and practical princi-
"ple, influencing their lives, and elevating their hopes
"from earth to Heaven. Without this effect, their
"faith is no more than a barren aſſent. We are told that
"the Devils believe thus far, and that they tremble as
"they believe. We have reaſon to fear, that if careleſs

Chriſtians,

" Chriſtians continue long in this ſtate of darkneſs, and " error, they will begin to give way to the ſuggeſtions " of an evil heart of unbelief, and at laſt totally depart " from the living God. Such men may be beſt re- " claimed by the gentle methods I have juſt deſcribed, " if they can only be prevailed upon to liſten to the " voice of religious wiſdom. It is one of the greateſt " misfortunes that can befall a rational creature to be " brought up in ignorance, and practiſed in evil from " the firſt dawn of reaſon, till the mind becomes torpid " and callous, and (as we read of thoſe who periſhed in " the deluge) till all the imaginations of the thoughts " of the heart are evil, and that continually. These " muſt be corrected by the rod of juſtice ; but they have " immortal ſouls, and claim our tendereſt pity, and we " are required to uſe our beſt endeavours to induce ſuch " hardened and unfeeling offenders to conſider their " ways, and turn their feet into the ways of Peace. " It is alſo the greateſt bleſſing that heaven can beſtow " upon a youth to be brought up from a child (like good " Timothy) in the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, " which are able to make him wiſe unto ſalvation, " through faith, which is in Chriſt Jeſus. To obſerve " the riſing youth thus trained up in the fear and nur- " ture of the Lord, affords the higheſt ſatisfaction which " a good and religious mind can feel ;" * for what can be

* I am indebted for this excellent passage to the Reverend Mr. Addison, Rector of Niagara, whose scientific and classical attainments place him high a-

be more grateful than to hear the voice of infancy praiſing God, and the tongue employing its firſt motions in calling upon his holy name.

What can be a better preparation for religious inſtruction and the impreſſions of faith, than the ſimplicity, the docility, the ignorance of evil, which characterize this tender age. When life is ſo begun, and ſo continued, the text may be applied to us at any period of our lives, whether we are cut off in early infancy, in the bloom of youth, the ſtrength of manhood, or the maturity of age. Are you then, my Chriſtian Brethren, anxious to render yourſelves worthy of the bleſſing pronounced by this voice from heaven.

I. Behold with what becoming fortitude and reſignation good men bear the labours and afflictions of life.

II. With what propriety their works, poſſeſſing Chriſtian purity and excellence, are said to follow them to Heaven.

III. And in what manner they are prepared to die in the Lord, that by following their example, you may inherit the promiſes, and ſit down with them in Paradiſe.

Are

---

mong Scholars, and whose services as a Divine, and benevolent exertions as a Christian, during the late war, confer upon him a still higher title, and deservedly obtained for him the grateful acknowledgements of the Provincial Legislature.

Are you anxious of attaining the bleſſing of the text? Behold, in the firſt place, with what becoming fortitude and reſignation good men bear the labours and afflictions of life.

God loves all his Children; the whole creation ſpeaks the language of affection and gratitude. He points out happineſs as our true and legitimate deſtination, the object which we ought ever to have in view, and miſery the object of abhorrence, which we ought always to ſhun. To become happy is, therefore, the end of our being; to this all the works of nature, and all the powers and faculties of our minds are intended to contribute; and yet we meet with grievous afflictions—no man paſſes through life without many trials and ſufferings: the clouds of adverſity frequently ſurround us, and place the day of felicity at an unmeaſurable diſtance. Are we then to conclude that the misfortunes, the afflictions, the labours of life are at variance with our happineſs? Do they exclude us from our birth-right, the object which God had in view in our creation? No, it cannot be; they muſt have ſome advantage, ſome good muſt attend them ſufficient to over-balance all the evil, and inſtead of obſtructing they muſt forward our felicity. Yes, afflictions have a real, a permanent value, as the means or inſtruments of our purity. They are harſh and unpleaſant in their admonitions, but they are the ſalutary cauſes of our progreſs in holineſs. It is their effects that are to be

conſidered; they muſt in themſelves be diſagreeable; frequently do they harrow up the ſoul, and fill us with anguiſh and deſpair; but even then they rouſe in us the ſparks of virtue that had perhaps been aſleep; they give new force and energy to our character.

The conviction that God is love, that his goodneſs and tender mercies are infinite, muſt at once aſſure us that our ſuffering, however great, will at length contribute to our everlaſting advantage. Had not Abraham been tried, would his faithfulneſs have been ſo conſpicuous? If Joſeph had not borne his afflictions with fortitude and reſignation, truſted in God, when ſold by his Brethren for a ſlave in a foreign land, reſiſted the temptations that aſſailed him in Egypt, and maintained his integrity in the gloom of a dungeon, his character would not have been ſo perfect. What a noble example of pious reſignation, and patient ſuffering is exhibited by Job; virtues which would never have been called forth, had his proſperity continued.

The calamities of life acquire their value by the uſe that is made of them; to all they are not inſtructive, for ſome they harden, and make more wicked, but in general, they teach us temperance, ſelf denial, and the value of moral reſtraint. We feel in poverty the advantage of temperance, and that the ſober fare which we are enabled to procure, is more conducive to health, than the coſtly viands of the luxurious.

In

In the hour of calamity, we perceive how frail we are; how little any of thoſe things, which are reckoned moſt valuable in the world, can contribute to our happineſs. We perceive, in fact, how little we depend upon temporal benefits, when the heart is engaged with its own ſorrows, and is able to appreciate the real value of preſent things.

The advantage of calamity is poſitive, it brings us to a proper ſenſe of ourſelves, of our ſituation, and of our mutual dependence. Even the labours and occupations of life, which to the majority of mankind, appear to be grievous burdens, are abſolutely neceſſary to its enjoyment, and our protection from evil. Idleneſs is the greateſt corrupter of the human heart, and induſtry is one of the greateſt ſupporters of virtue.

The calamities and afflictions of life teach us humanity and all the charities of our nature. He, who has wanted a friend to ſooth his ſorrow, a boſom on which to lean in the day of his adverſity, a heart into which he could pour his ſorrows, and be paid with ſympathy and conſolation, will be ready to relieve the diſtreſſes of others. Having formed a juſt eſtimate of human life, he haſtens to mark its progreſs, by doing good; his heart expands at the tale of woe, and the tear of ſenſibility flows; not that ſpurious ſenſibility which exhauſts itſelf with a tear or a ſigh, but that active benevolent exertion, which willingly undergoes any labour to reſtore a fellow creature to happineſs and peace.

Afflictions soften the heart, detach it from earth, and raise it to Heaven. Surely then the conviction that God is good, that all the labours and afflictions of life render us better men, and more worthy of his protection, ought to enable us to bear them with fortitude and resignation.

It is thus that the Christian feels and reasons; it is thus that he experiences the advantages of tribulation; it is the fire allaying the gold, he rises purer from every trial.

He that aspires to the blessing in my text, so uses his labours; they contribute to his perfection in virtue; he beholds the most eminent men, Prophets, Saints, and Martyrs, struggling with calamity, and emerging with brightness, from the billows of the storm; above all, he beholds our blessed Saviour himself, suffering every kind of calamity from the ingratitude of those he protected, the faithlessness of friends, the cruelty of enemies, yet rising superior to the last.

In humble imitation of this illustrious example, good men, in the most distressing and alarming situations, behold their divine mercy shining through the cloud. They receive his correction as that of the most tender of parents, assured that, however gloomy things may appear, and trying, the calamities that assail them, if they persevere in well doing, and bear them with patience, they will assist greatly in conducting them to

the

the regions of never failing happineſs. Yet the devout and humble Chriſtian, at length becomes weary of t e contentions and diſorders of this mortal ſcene; he bears his afflictions with reſignation, but he is anxious, like the apoſtle, to be gone, and to be relieved from the pain and ſufferings attendant on his earthly tabernacle, is to him, as the text dec ares, an eſſential bleſſing.

II. Are you, ſecondly, my Chriſtian Brethren anxious to inherit the bleſſing in my text: behold with what propriety t'e works of thoſe who die in the Lord follow them to heaven

Your works of love and mercy muſt not be confined to good wiſhes, ſoothing expreſſions or humane diſpoſitions, but they muſt conſiſt in the active practice of good. You muſt not tell the hungry and the naked to go and be fed and clothed, but you muſt feed and clothe them; you muſt not lament over that ignorance which you can remove; the widow muſt not ſolicit your aid in vain, nor are you to be deaf to the orphan's complaints, or the cry of the oppreſſed It is by the exerciſe of active benevolence, in relieving the miſerable, and giving comfort to the ſorrowful, inſtructing the ignorant, reforming the wicked, and exerting all your faculties in promoting the temporal and eternal felicity of mankind, that you render your works worthy of following you to Heaven. The ſame mind muſt be in

you

which was alſo in Chriſt Jeſus; the ſame profound veneration, ardent love, and cheerful obedience to the will of God; the ſame pure devotion, unwearied goodneſs, and unconquerable love to all mankind; the ſame faithful and tender friendſhip, ſincerity, prudence, meekneſs, patience, and affability. In fine, the life of the true Chriſtian is a hymn of praiſe to God; his Redeemer is ever before him, he becomes a living evividence of the truth of the Goſpel, an evidence which prevails when all other arguments fail. He forms a kind of Heaven in the boſom of his own family, which arreſts the attention of the unbeliever, and makes him exclaim, that ſomething more than human reigns in that place.

III. Thirdly, my Chriſtian Brethren, if you are anxious to inherit the promiſes, behold in what manner good men are prepared to die in the Lord.

When we hear the voice of lamentation and mourning following to the grave a boſom friend, an affectionate child, or a tender parent, we generally confine our attention to the ſurvivors, and deplore with them the blank that has been made in their relations, and the afflicting loſs which they have ſuſtained, and this is proper; it is good to ſympathize with our brethren under affliction, and endeavour to ſooth and relieve them. But it is no leſs advantageous at times, to follow in our ſouls the corps into the grave, and to aſk ourſelves,

is this man prepared to die? The anſwer will be made perhaps by our own conſcience, which leading us rapidly to our own ſtate, will ask whether we can anſwer this moſt awful, but important queſtion, as we deſire.

Frequently to think of death, and to conſider what preparation is neceſſary for his approach, ought to be the duty of every Chriſtian; yet many never think of death, ſome will not allow the word to be mentioned in their preſence. Is it any wonder then that ſo few are prepared to die. To think of death often becomes a great incentive to virtue. It teaches us the true value of life, namely, that it is a preparation for eternity. What man would be wicked, if he verily believed in his heart, that in a little time he would ſurely die? In the midſt of the moſt ardent purſuits, a ſerious thought of death ſtiffens our nerves, chills our ardor, and arreſts our career. What are the trappings of power, the glitter of riches, or even the praiſe of friends at the approach of death, and does not a frequent recollection of what we ſhall then think of theſe things, teach us in the mean time their real value, and ſuppreſs that immoderate deſire for their attainment, which we ſee daily exhibited around us. Nor will ſuch contemplations repreſs proper exertion, rational enterpriſe, or perſevering induſtry, for who is likely to be ſo ſucceſsful, as he who knows his own ſtrength, and the value of the objects for which he is contending.

I readily grant that much of the buſtle of the day would be repreſſed, becauſe it is occupied with trifles, which are at beſt uſeleſs, but more generally pernicious, if obtained. But the change would not leſſen the ſum of labour, it would only give a new direction to our purſuits; a thousand things which now excite our moſt vehement deſires, and moſt ſtrenuous efforts, would then excite no particular emotion; our objects would be confined to the uſeful and good, not to the frivolous or pernicious, and who that conſiders how much may yet be done for the temporal benefit of man, how many improvements may ſtill be made in the arts of life, in the ſituation and œconomy of the poor, in the benevolent diſtribution of wealth, in forwarding the arts and ſciences, can help perceiving that ten thouſand avenues of uſeful labour may be pointed out ſufficient to ſupply employment for thoſe whom the ſerious contemplation of the end of life might induce to leave the vain and the fooliſh, and ceaſe to pamper depraved appetites, and licentious paſſions.

But in a moral view, the advantage ariſing from this awful conſideration, that death is at our door, is infinitely greater Rivalſhips would immediately vaniſh; why ſpend thoſe days in fierce contention, in nouriſhing the worſt paſſions of the heart, in accumulating miſery upon ourſelves, which might be ſo much more profitably employed in preparing for eternity. Envy itſelf, that canker worm of the ſoul periſhes in this ſerious contemplation,

thoſe

thoſe that excite it will ſoon be in the grave; there, all their grandeur, their abilities and fame will ſoon be forgotten, the lifeleſs clay will no longer be followed by admiring crowds, or be addreſſed with the language of applauſe.

When we look at a friend or companion ſinking into the grave, when the ſurrounding Phyſicians have pronounced the deſeaſe mortal, and he is left to die, what then can ſooth his mind. Are we to ſpeak to him at this awful hour, of the pleaſures of life, the pomp of power, or the charms of renown—alas! we feel that topics of this ſort are by no means ſuitable to the ſerious occaſion, they ſink into inſignificance, they raiſe diſguſt. All the paſſions have ſubſided, even thoſe which we uſed moſt willingly to indulge; the grief for example for thoſe we loved, vaniſhes away, we are ſoon to follow. All human friendships muſt commence upon the principle that one ſhall weep over the other's tomb.

Not that the righteous man requires even theſe incentives to teach him the proper value of preſent things, and the neceſſary preparation for death. The ſight of a friend or companion going to his long home, may indeed invigorate ſuch contemplations, but they are frequently indulged, for he knows that the preparation for death, ſuch as a chriſtian undertakes, unites the preſent and future worlds. He does not conſider the lawful indulgence of his appetites and paſſions, in an in-

nocent degree, any part of this preparation, becauſe thus far reaſon recommends, and prudence juſtifies, as neceſſary to preſent health and comfort. Nor does the cultivation of his taſte, affording innocent, but elegant gratifications, nor the improvement of his intellectual powers, ſo pregnant with pure delight, appear to him parts of this preparation becauſe thoſe only heighten his happineſs here, and are dictated by true wiſdom.

Things which begin and end in this life can only command ſo much of his attention, as they confer pure happineſs; but in preparing for death, he is chiefly careful to attend to thoſe things, which though ſown in corruption, ſhall riſe in glory.

He bewails not the certainty of death, for what then would reſtrain folly, what aſſuage the griefs and pains that fleſh is heir to; he sees the wiſdom, the neceſſity of this monitor to perſons in our ſituation, he ſpends no part of his time in idle lamentation, and impious diſcontent, but turns his whole ſoul to active preparation.

Addreſſing himſelf to the Father of Spirits, in humble prayer and ſupplication, he raiſes his ſoul to the contemplation of all moral excellence. The perfections of his heavenly Father swell the emotions of love, admiration and gratitude in his ſoul, to their utmoſt extent. He is lifted up on the pinnacle of the temple, from which he looks back on the trials and temptations of the world below, the calamities it contains, the ſufferings it inflicts

flicts, and from there he turns his eyes ſteadily above, where heaven is displaying its glory. Supported by faith, reſting on obedience and ſincere repentance, he ſoon feels that he has an intereſt in Chriſt, that God reigns over all things, and has revealed himſelf through his bleſſed ſon.

Determined to continue in the true path, ſhall not his ſoul indulge in love, peace and hope; what ſhall he fear under a government ſo gracious; he knows from experience, that death is ſwallowed up in victory, and may join the bleſſed apoſtle, in exclaiming, *O Death where is thy ſting? O Grave where is thy victory? The ſting of death is ſin, and the ſtrength of ſin is the law; But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.* Animated by encouragements ſo precious, the ſincere chriſtian remains *ſtedfaſt, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as he knows that his labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

Is it then difficult for the Chriſtian, thus encouraged, to be patient, or even joyful in tribulation. Death covers us with his dark veil only for a moment, for our Saviour haſtens to our relief, frees us from our burdens, dries up our tears, and receives us into his kingdom.

In fine, my brethren, holineſs here, and happineſs hereafter, are inſeparable; it is the cauſe and the effect.

He that practiſes goodneſs on earth, ſhall taſte enjoyment in heaven. Riſe, then, my brethren, above the objects of time and ſenſe, imitate the example of good men; apply to yourſelves a leſſon of wiſdom from every friend and neighbour, that is paſſing away; imitate his virtues, and avoid his errors, and frequently picture in your imagination, the purity, the dignity, the happineſs of that celeſtial ſociety, where charity never faileth, and where love for ever reigns; ſo ſhall your thoughts be led from earth to heaven; and in humble dependence on your Saviour's aſſiſtance, you will attain the divineſt pleaſures, and at length join the company of the Saints, who ſhine forth as the ſun in the Kingdom of their Father.

THE ferious and important ſubject to which I have called your attention, was ſuggeſted by the recent loſs which this ſociety has ſuſtained. For, notwithſtanding the happy exemption of Kingſton from the evils of the late war, and the increaſed number and proſperity of its inhabitants, who that was acquainted here only a few years ago, who is not ſtruck with a change that wealth and numbers cannot reſtore. Three friends, the props of this ſociety, its pride and ornament, differing in their diſpoſitions and habits, but all combining in rendering it agreeable, have paſſed away.

Firſt, your beloved Paſtor; a man whoſe primitive virtues, ſtrength of underſtanding, and ſuavity of manners, endeared him to all his pariſhioners, and whoſe talents and learning would have rendered him conſpicuous in any country.

Next, a gentleman whoſe hoſpitable diſpoſition and kindneſs of heart, reflected much credit on the town, and whoſe elegance of manners and amiable attentions, were felt by all ſtrangers and inhabitants, was ſuddenly called into the preſence of his Creator.

Now we are called upon to lament the laſt of theſe three friends; a man whoſe character can never be too much

much appreciated. All muſt have a laudable curioſity to become acquainted with every thing relating to this eminent perſon, ſo univerſally reſpected and admired. There is indeed in the review of his life ſo much to raiſe us to moral and intellectual improvement; ſo much to recommend and inſpire the love of virtue, and ſo much to illuſtrate the rewards of rectitude, and the conſolations of religion, that we cannot riſe from the recital without feeling our good principles invigorated and the powers of our conſcience ſtrengthened and extended.

RICHARD CARTWRIGHT, was born at Albany, in the ſtate of New York, then a Britiſh colony, on the 2d of February, 1759. His father, an emigrant from England, was highly reſpectable, of great hoſpitality, and poſſeſſed of the moſt agreeable convivial talents. His mother, born of a loyal Dutch family, was remarkable for her ſtrength of mind, excellent judgement, and tenacity of memory; gifts which deſcended with increaſed vigour to her affectionate ſon. His education commenced at a private ſchool, and much pains was taken by his parents, to gratify that ſtrong deſire of information which he exhibited from his earlieſt infancy. He was permitted to peruſe every book which came in his way, nor was ſuch promiſcuous reading found injurious to his taſte, nor inimical to his progreſs in uſeful learning; for the accuracy of his judgement ſoon taught him to diſtinguiſh the uſeful from the trifling.

So

So retentive was his memory, that he ſeldom forgot any thing that he read; when, therefore, he removed to another ſchool, where the claſſics and higher branches of education were taught, his induſtry and abilities ſecured to him the affection of his teacher, who ſaw with admiration and delight, his rapid progreſs in latin and greek. Indeed his retention of memory gave him a facility in acquiring languages which has been ſeldom equalled.

To theſe attainments he added, by private ſtudy, an intimate acquaintance with almoſt all the claſſical works in the Engliſh tongue.

Arrived at an age, when he was to look forward to his exertions for an honorable ſupport, he began to conſider of a profeſſion. The extent of his knowledge, and the pleaſures which he had reaped from the cultivation of his mind, had given him, as frequently happens, a diſtaſte for mercantile purſuits. The law was not congenial to his mind; in that lucrative profeſſion, there are many tranſactions which open rather a ſombre view of human nature. The various apparatus neceſſary to ſecure property and reputation, rights, public and private, become a ſevere ſatyr on mankind, and as he knew that much talent is employed in delaying juſtice, and defending wrong, he could not reconcile his mind to ſuch exertions. This did not prevent him from admiring many in this profeſſion, nor blind him

to the great good which a lawyer of ſuperior talents and inflexible integrity, might effect, in preventing wrongs, and terminating contentions, directing the doubtful, and inſtructing the ignorant.

Poſſeſſing thoſe qualities in a moſt eminent degree, which conſtitute a great character and a virtuous man, he had no ambition to figure in public life, and after mature deliberation, he turned his views to the Church. Perhaps a misfortune which had befallen him early in life, aſſiſted in leading him to this determination. A boy in playing, ſtruck him with a ſtone in his left ey , which deprived him almoſt entirely of its uſe, and turned the ball outwards, by which his countenance, otherwiſe remarkably fine, was ſomewhat deformed.

Of a pariſh prieſt, ſuch as his imagination preſented, he ſpoke always with enthuſiaſm. He conſidered him a perſon appointed to preſerve among his people the ſpirit of vital religion, to be their moral guardian, to keep them in unity, and in the conſtant practice of mutual love and good offices one towards another. The Clergyman ſhould be a pattern of moderation, temperance and contentment, to all his pariſhioners ; by this he will extend his influcnce among them, increaſe their felicity, and prepare them, by a living example, for ſecuring that bleſſed immortality which the goſpel announces. Not that he was ignorant of the difficulties which a Clergyman has to ſurmount in this country, from

from the laxity of religious principle; from the want of early impreſſions, and the general indifference to, and total neglect of goſpel ordinances. But thoſe difficulties he was accuſtomed to ſay, would rather ſtimulate, than impede the conſcientious Prieſt, who would find infinite delight in forming a congregation where there had been none before; changing darkneſs into light, promoting induſtry, ſobriety, and humanity among his people, and proving to them, that even in this life the ſincere chriſtian enjoys infinitely more happineſs than any other man, and this in a great meaſure independent of tranſient things; other ſtations might, he ſaid, poſſeſs greater pomp and ſhew, but he knew no ſocial condition which united ſo many ſources of the higheſt enjoyment, ſo many objects for gratifying thoſe paſſions which lead to ſelf ſatisfaction.

Animated by theſe ſentiments, he turned his vigorous mind to a full preparation for diſcharging with ability and ſucceſs the duties of a pariſh Prieſt. He read the works of the moſt eminent divines, he applied himſelf to the ſtudy of Hebrew; he could not bear the idea of mediocrity, and being able to read with care the New Teſtament in the original Greek, he was deſirous of reading the Old Teſtament, as it had been revealed.

He was proceeding with his accuſtomed rapidity, and had even ventured upon biblical criticiſm, when the American rebellion broke out, and changed the objects

of his life. In love with retirement, and turning his whole attention towards a ſtation which made peace and harmony the foundation of its exertions, he had never taken any intereſt in the various diſputes which divided Great Britain and her colonies.

But the time was now come, when neutrality could not be maintained, and when it became neceſſary for him to take a ſide. Brought up in habitual reverence to the King and Parliament by his loyal parents, he did not heſitate a moment in making his choice. Well acquainted with the hiſtory of his country, he knew that Great Britain had been involved in two long and expenſive wars, to defend the colonies, and that they had contributed little or none of the expence; he thought it but reaſonable that they ſhould give ſomething towards remunerating the parent ſtate, for the vaſt burdens ſhe had incurred.

It is not probable that his early age enabled him to aſcertain the degree of authority which might be rightfully exerciſed by the mother country over her colonies. It had always been aſſerted that parliament poſſeſſed the power of binding them in all caſes; this was the opinion of the beſt informed; it was recognized in many ſtates, and admitted by the legiſlatures of all the colonies, nor was it ever controverted by argument, till the coloniſts had been taught, by the oppoſition in the Britiſh parliament, the ſubtile diſtinction between acts

for

for the regulation of commerce, and thoſe which regulated their interior arrangements.

The firſt oppoſition to the mother country originated from that republican diſpoſition of the New England people, which always ſubmited with reluctance to the conſtitutional authority of a Government, in which monarchy made a conſiderable part. Ever diſcontented and jealous of uſurpation, they were continually at variance with the Governors, and claiming exemptions and privileges which could not be granted. But active in diffuſing their ſentiments through the other colonies, the ſpirit of diſſatisfaction became at length ſo general, as to enable them to break out in open rebellion. The various artifices made uſe of to deceive the people, the falſe news invented, the cruelties exerciſed on thoſe attached to the King, did not eſcape the notice of our excellent friend, who was diſguſted with their proceedings, and more zealous in defending the ſide which he had choſen. He was convinced that the rebellion originated from a reſtleſs democratic ſpirit, and that it gained ground only by the imbecility of the meaſures taken to cruſh it, the aſſiſtance of the oppoſition in parliament, and the treacherous conduct of the commanders employed by ſea and land.

Diſpleaſed with the ſelfiſh views of the diſaffected, feeling no oppreſſion from parliament, nor greater reſtrictions than appeared neceſſary for the unity of all

parts of the empire, and convinced that if any grievances exiſted, rebellion was not the proper remedy, he maintained his loyalty. He had no intereſts to ſerve, he ſought not for power or emolument from commotions and bloodſhed; yet he was the ſteady friend of rational freedom, and as ready as any man to ſtand up in its defence. But the conteſt was not about liberty, for he uniformly maintained, that there was leſs of true liberty among our neighbours, than when they were colonies; for the dominion of the party, which now regulates every thing, renders all pretentions to liberty ridiculous. It is a faction that has always been turbulent, cruel, and vindictive, diſcovering oppreſſions where none exiſted, ſupporting inſolence, and trampling upon virtue. Nor is it doubtful that the moſt rational and beſt informed, would rather live under a mild mixed government, poſſeſſing the power of enforcing its decrees, than in their preſent disjointed democracy.

Actuated by theſe principles, he accompanied his parents into Canada, and for a time attended Colonel BUTLER of the Queen's Rangers, as his Secretary. In this ſtation he had ſeveral opportunities, during two campaigns, of giving ſpecimens of that penetration and courage which were ſuch prominent parts of his character.

After the concluſion of the war, which, by giving ſucceſs to rebels, has produced ſo many miſeries to mankind, there appeared no proſpect for him in the church; he

he was therefore obliged to relinquish his favourite pursuits, and to engage in a profession by no means congenial to his mind.

At the solicitation of a near and worthy relation, he formed a connection with the Honble. ROBERT HAMILTON, a gentleman of such varied information, engaging manners, and princely hospitality, as to be justly esteemed an honor to the province. His memory is gratefully remembered by thousands, whom his magnanimous liberality rescued from famine. This connection subsisted with great satisfaction to both parties for several years, when on account of the extent of their business, a separation took place by mutual consent, Mr. HAMILTON going to Niagara, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT remaining at Kingston ; but their mutual regard and friendship were only dissolved by death.

Although, Mr. CARTWRIGHT had found it necessary to relinquish his views of becoming a minister of the Gospel, yet he indulged always in a serious turn of mind, and a strong predilection for the sacred character. Often has my venerable friend, who was accustomed to address you from this sacred place, with so much profit to your souls, lamented that circumstances had prevented a person of such eminent abilities from entering the church, of which he must have become its chief ornament. The excellence of his disposition, his discrimination of character, his acquaintance with the human heart, would have made him singularly useful.

That

That elevation of mind which accompanies high principle and extenſive knowledge, while it preſided over his mercantile purſuits, prevented him from ſtrictly attending to petty gains, or from being tenacious of always obtaining what may be deemed in common language his juſt rights. He knew that juſtice, unleſs mixed with benevolence, may frequently become cruelty; and therefore he was lenient to his debtors, and notwithſtanding his extenſive concerns, ſeldom had recourſe to law. Riches are not every thing, they may be too dearly bought. And I may venture to ſay, that never was he the cauſe of miſery to any family. But, though this inflexible integrity and honourable dealing, which produced the ſame uniform conduct with young and old, ignorant and knowing, and which was more ready to recede than to be ſevere, had made him leſs wealthy than he would have otherwiſe been. He was poſſeſſed of all he deſired, a liberal competence; and by his honorable conduct, he gave a complete example of thoſe liberal views and magnificent principles, which have raiſed the character of the Britiſh merchant ſo high in the eyes of the world.

Soon after his ſettlement in Kingſton, he was appointed Judge of the Common Pleas; the duties of which he diſcharged, without any emolument, in a way moſt honourable to himſelf, and beneficial to the public. His patient attention to the cauſes before him, his inflexible impartiality, his ſingular penetration, and the

ſtrength

ſtrength of his judgement, added to the energetic firmneſs of his character, enabled him to perform, in the moſt correct manner, the duties of this important office. One of his brethren, in another diſtrict, uſed to ſay with much naiveté, that Mr. CARTWRIGHT was worth them all; while we are poring and ſtudying, he ſees a thing almoſt intuitively; overawing us by his very manner, giving dignity to the court, and inſpiring a reſpect for its deciſions. On the bench he has no prejudice or predilection of any kind. Accordingly, he was moſt attentive, mild and diſcriminating, for he aſpired to no praiſe, but that which might be given to the conſcientious diſcharge of his duty. In performing the more humble, but various and uſeful duties of a magiſtrate, you are all witneſſes of his eminence. His addreſſes to the grand juries, at the Quarter Seſſions, will be long remembered for their ſound principles, liberal views, and tempered dignity. In exerting himſelf to keep the peace, in apprehending and committing felons, and performing all the troubleſome duties of this office, he was indefatigable. He did not drive away the injured who came to complain of the oppreſſor, nor did he attend to his private affairs in preference to theirs. Very few underſtand the duties of a magiſtrate, they are ſo numerous, and embrace ſo great a variety of objects, that the country is under great obligations to any worthy man who ſhall prepare himſelf for this office, and diſcharge its duties without any ſiniſter motives of his own.

No ſooner were the provinces divided, than he was appointed a member of the legiſlative council; and I believe was never, during the remainder of his life, abſent from a ſingle ſeſſion of parliament, except one. In a pecuniary point of view, this attendance every ſeaſon for twenty three years, was accompanied with great expence, beſides the loſs of time, in conducting his private buſineſs. Nor was it merely, while at the ſeat of Government, that he was occupied in legiſlation; many an hour did he ſpend in collecting and preparing materials for uſeful laws, in order to render the province proſperous and happy. He was not one of thoſe intuitive legiſlators, who can ſit down of a morning and write a law upon any whim that ſtrikes their fancy; ſuch crude excreſcences could only raiſe his contempt and indignation. He deliberated coolly, he collected information with care, he weighed the words and ſentences with the moſt ſcrupulous anxiety, that the meaning might be plain and ſimple, and that each clauſe ſhould expreſs that meaning perſpicuouſly, and no other. Nor was he one of thoſe narrow minded, though well intentioned, ſtateſmen, who look for an immediate effect from their legiſlative labours; he knew that from the nature of mankind, many evils after the law had afforded a remedy, diſappeared ſlowly; that there were many enactments of the moſt uſeful kind, which ſeemed to take no effect, but which proceeded in ſilence with ſlow but ſteady pace, to produce the moſt beneficial re-

ſults.

ſults. Poſſeſſing great comprehenſion of thought, and the moſt vigorous talents, attended with a patience of reſearch, and a ſelf control highly advantageous, he was frequently content to give way to the leſs extended views of his colleagues, and to accept of an imperfect meaſure, rather than loſe it altogether.

You can never, he would ſay, bring all into the ſame way of thinking; ſome meaſures of great and laſting advantage to a ſtate, are ſlow in their operation, and appear to produce, for a ſeaſon, no beneficial effect, which are yet in the end pregnant with the moſt precious advantages; but you cannot expect in a public aſſembly, always to transfuſe your own views and ſentiments into the minds of others Some are too ignorant to comprehend the force of your arguments; ſome too lazy to attend to them; many are blinded by prejudices, and ſome have already adopted the contrary ſide, which they are determined, at all hazards, to maintain; if, therefore, you remain inflexible, even in the attainment of good, nothing will be accompliſhed, you muſt concede and leave a good meaſure to make its own way after it has began to operate. Nor is it juſt that you ſhould carry all your plans, however diſintereſted your intentions, others may be equally ſo, though differing in opinion, and it is right that they ſhould ſometimes decide againſt you, even though wrong, that they may know from experience that they are in poſſeſſion of liberty.

To thoſe who complained of the little intereſt many took in preparing for their legiſlative duties, and their narrow views, in turning every thing to their own country, or their own village, he uſed to ſay, that the great imperfection of national, as well as domeſtic government, aroſe from the little virtue and ſoundneſs of principle, not only in making laws, but in putting them in execution. That, inſtead of finding fault, it would be much better to act, and to remember that the wiſeſt laws are of no uſe, unleſs executed by virtue. Almoſt every ſtatute that goes into general operation, muſt be delegated to many different perſons, judges, juries, conſtables, &c. who, if not governed by conſcience, will abuſe their diſcretionary power. Make a nation virtuous, and the laws will be wiſe, and their execution ſure. He looked for more good from a rational plan of education, diffeminating moral and religious principles among the people, than from legiſlative enactments.

He had been frequently offered a ſeat in the Executive Council, which he declined, not only from a conſcientious feeling, that he could not diſcharge its duties ſtrictly, living at a diſtance from the ſeat of Government, but alſo becauſe he was convinced that he could do more good as a Magiſtrate and Legiſlator, by not being identified with the government, as an Executive Counsellor muſt frequently be. Though never aſpiring to popularity, his known probity had given him a degree of influence which no other man poſſeſſed.

This

This made him anxious to guard the independence of his character from any poſſibility of imputation. His great ambition was to be uſeful to the Province, and to promote the proſperity of its inhabitants.

In every ſituation in which he was placed, we behold the ſame dignity of character maintained, the ſame forgetfulneſs of ſelf, the ſame elevation of principle, which ſatisfied with the approbation of conſcience, and future hopes, depended not upon the applauſe of men, but on the contrary, ſometimes exerted itſelf when friends and acquaintances were diſpleaſed, and even amidſt frowns and menaces. It is true, that thoſe did not continue long, his inflexible probity ſhone through tranſient clouds, and many who had determined to find fault were left in admiration.

It was in this elevated ſituation, long at the head of this ſociety, and poſſeſſing the love and eſteem of good men, and the reſpectful homage of the wicked, that the late war found him: For tho' taught from former experience, to look for every thing baſe and degrading from the faction that ruled our unhappy neighbours, yet he could hardly believe that open war would have been the conſequence. Sound policy, intereſt, and affection, were in favour of peace; much might be loſt, but nothing could be gained by hoſtilities. When he found himſelf miſtaken, all the enthuſiaſm of former times kindled in his boſom, and tho' ſinking under domeſtic affliction, his love for his country gave him new life. His pa-

triotiſm during the whole war, burnt with the moſt noble brightneſs. Not ſatisfied with the active diſcharge of his duties as colonel of the militia, he endeavoured by his writings to inſpire every inhabitant of the colony with ſentiments and reflections ſuitable to the dangerous ſituation of the country. Writing from the heart, and with the moſt lively zeal, in the important cauſe, he contributed in an eminent degree to preſerve that noble ſpirit of independence, which enabled us to cloſe the conteſt ſo glorioufly. When our vindictive enemy threatened to drive us from the fertile fields, that we had gained from the wilderneſs to ſever us from our parent ſtate, to deprive us of all that gives dignity to man, and renders life valuable, he was found actively employed in animating the militia to reſiſtance, pointing out the folly of the boaſtings of the foe, and the certainty of their defeat. His unremitting exertions were continued long after the deſeaſe that deſtroyed him had made great progreſs, the ſtrength of his body was not equal to the firmneſs of his ſoul; but he continued till within a few weeks of his death, to diſcharge public duties of the moſt important nature.

Should any ſuppoſe, that becauſe he was always found on the ſide of government, and ſtrenuous in protecting it from the machinations of ſecret, and the attacks of open enemies, that he was not friendly to liberty, they would be much miſtaken. No man ever diſplayed more firmneſs or independence than he in every ſituation

tuation. As a Legiſlator, he thought always for himſelf, and was even ſomewhat jealous of his liberty. But when he differed from his colleagues, and oppoſed a meaſure deſired by the government, it was a difference ariſing from conviction; it was not a factious oppoſition to exhibit his power, and gain popularity, nor did he ever allow a ſpirit of inſolence and contradiction to thwart any meaſure in agitation. His oppoſition was therefore equally honourable as his ſupport, and ſuch was the conviction of his pure integrity, that it extended his influence, and conſequently his uſefulneſs. Always a ſupporter of the liberty and independence of the ſubject, and the ſteady aſſerter of all thoſe privileges which every Briton enjoys by our happy conſtitution, he knew how eaſily they were reconciled to the firmeſt loyalty and patriotiſm.

By thoſe, indeed, who conſider the inſtitutions of our neighbours, as the *ne plus ultra* of perfection, he might be ſuppoſed not friendly to liberty. He was no admirer of them, he was too well acquainted with the diſhonorable arts, by which they had been cheriſhed. He well knew that there never was ſuch ſcenes of corruption exhibited by any public body, as those of many of their legiſlatures, that there was no check from feelings of honour, and that there was no compariſon in the adminiſtration of juſtice between the two countries. A firm and rational admirer of the Britiſh Conſtitution, he perceived in that of our neighbours only a crude and

frightful

frightful imitation ; wherever the reſemblance was preſerved, it was advantageous, but every deviation was an error. Nor could he, for a moment, conceive it poſſible for any perſon to believe, when contraſting the Britiſh Parliament with the Congreſs at Waſhington, that there was any room for compariſon. Never was the Britiſh Legiſlature accuſed by its greateſt calumniators of proceedings, approaching in diſgrace to the infamous and bare faced jobs, which have been tranſacted in Congreſs. Can it be ſuppoſed that men of high principle and education, who feel that they muſt reſpect public opinion, that reputation can only be preſerved by the conſiſtency and propriety of their political conduct, are to be compared with men, without education or principle, who have no character to loſe, and who have been elected by a faction, to ſupport certain meaſures, and no other.

In all eſſential points of a good government, our neighbours have completely failed ; but had there been any doubt, the conduct of the two legiſlatures, during the late conteſt, puts it to reſt for ever. While the Parliament of Great Britain, by magnanimity and firmneſs, has raiſed the nation to the higheſt pinnacle of human glory, congreſs by the moſt inſiduous time-ſerving policy, has ſunk the United States to the loweſt point of degradation. On the one ſide, we behold the Britiſh Parliament ſupporting the true and legitimate rights of man againſt the preſumptuous and arrogant

pretenſions

pretenſions of a cruel deſpot, reſcuing oppreſſed nations from his graſp, and maintaining the conteſt at the hazard of every thing that was dear, making the greateſt ſacrifices for the benefit of the civilized world, and while left alone, never deſpairing for a moment, but riſing ſuperior to misfortune. Perſevering under every circumſtance, however unfavourable, and holding out (as has been emphatically ſaid) a clear and bright flame amid the darkneſs that overſpread the nations of Europe, that ſoon roſe into a pillar of fire to light them to ſecurity, independence, and peace.

On the other hand, the American Government, like cormorants, delighted in the conteſts which agitated Europe, laughed at the groans of the dying, and fed upon the ſlain, had no ſympathy with the fallen; and when at length the deſpot had trampled upon all the continental nations, and nothing was ſeen but deſolation and deſpair, when Britain alone was left to combat with his coloſſal power, and her means of reſiſtance appeared to be faſt diminiſhing, this government, loſt to every feeling of honor and glory, haſtened to join itſelf to the oppreſſor of nations, and to congratulate him on the total deſtruction of the liberty of the world. Expecting to ſhare in the ſpoils of their parent ſtate, they proceeded to a declaration of war, on pretences ſo utterly falſe, that they are all abandoned by thoſe who urged them with the greateſt fury, and have not ſo

much

much as been mentioned in the treaty of peace. Poſterity, better than the preſent age, will be able to appreciate the conduct of the two governments during the convulſions of Europe, and while Britain will appear an example of magnanimity, unequalled in hiſtory, the ſtar that has directed the European family to happineſs and peace, America will be conſigned to bitter execration, as the betrayer of the liberty and independence of mankind.

But though from deep conviction, he was not an admirer of the inſtitutions of our neighbours, and ſaw much corruption in their laws and policy, he was not inſenſible to the high principle and juſt views of many individuals. Men whoſe talents and accompliſhments would do honour to any country, and whoſe exertions have never been wanting to give that change to public opinion, which would raiſe the character of their native land. That their efforts might be ſucceſsful, was one of his moſt ardent wiſhes.

In this province, my brethren, we all feel that we poſſeſs every bleſſing of the Britiſh Conſtitution, with none of its inconveniences, and if during the war we have had to bear many privations, and felt a momentary ſuſpenſion of right, it is hoped that ample remuneration will be given, and all muſt admit that we are well repaid for ſuch ſacrifices by the tranquility, peace, and happineſs, which we now enjoy, and by the reputation which we have

have acquired for loyalty and patriotism, and determined resistance to our open enemies. These calamities are blown away by the winds of heaven, and we are now to meet as friends, those whom we have beheld as foes. Let us then exercise towards them that charity which thinketh no evil, forgetting the past, let us anticipate good from the future, and by treating them with kindness and hospitality, shew them that in a Christian land, the moment the sword is sheathed, all the turbulent and hostile passions are buried in the ground.

WE have been hitherto contemplating this excellent man as a public character, but his domeſtic life as exhibiting a more forcible delineation of his moral nature, is ſtill more worthy of our attention. All are called upon to diſcharge the duties of private life, while few are required to appear in public ſtations. As a husband, no man was ever more attentive to ſoften the cares of his amiable companion, and to render it a union of hearts, a ſcene of the moſt refined friendſhip; always alive to her wants, he never failed to provide for her that convenience and accommodation, which became their rank and circumſtances. As ſome recompenſe for the ſolicitude and ſufferings incident to the nouriſhing of a large family, ſhe always experienced from him the warmeſt affection, and the kindeſt and moſt obliging attentions. He was aware, that in a family, the ſhare of cares which fall to the tender mother, are greater than thoſe of the father, that they are the hardeſt and moſt ungrateful. Her anxieties, her troubleſome and inceſſant labour in training up children to mature and ripened life, well deſerved his moſt cordial love, and endearing ſympathy. His affection ſweetened her labours, and encouraged her to a cheerful and conſtant attendance on her family concerns, and the moment that he could aſſiſt with propriety in ſuperintending his children,

dren, he haſtened to relieve her, and then by tempering with rational indulgence the reins of parental authority, he inſpired them with the warmeſt gratitude, and moſt tender regard. As they grew up, the neceſſary reſtraints of authority gradually dropped away, till at length the father ſunk into the friend.

A mutual confidence then took place of parental authority, while the known firmneſs of his character, and his abhorrence of every deviation from virtue, continued to ſtrengthen and guard thoſe moral principles which it had inſpired. Never were children more attached to their parents, and their fear of diſpleaſing him became a ſtrong motive for their continuance in well doing. Only four years are paſſed away ſince we beheld his charming family, conſiſting of ſix ſons and two daughters, in the full enjoyment of all the happineſs that virtue and innocence could confer. A more amiable and delightful groupe never lived.

It was at this time that his ſituation appeared to combine every thing that was deſirable upon earth. Poſſeſſing a rare combination of excellent qualities, the moſt inflexible integrity, and the faireſt reputation, derived from a long and uninterrupted courſe of ſteady and meritorious conduct, I could not help mentioning to him, that he derived even in this life, the moſt grateful rewards of virtue, the eſteem, the love, and the veneration, not only of thoſe who were intimately connec-

ted with him in the bonds of friendſhip and kindred, but of all who were witneſſes of his actions, and capable of appreciating the motives which produced them. In his memorable reply, he ſays, "this day cloſes my "52d year, and I can, I think, ſafely ſay, that I have "lived as much and almoſt as happily as any body in "the ſame time; what providence may prepare for me "in the remainder of my courſe, it is impoſſible to fore-"ſee, but I ſhall always have the conſolation, that hi-"therto my life has not been idly or uſeleſly ſpent."

Enjoying ſo much domeſtic comfort, and that ſingleneſs of mind which accompanies the conſciouſneſs of well doing, it ſeems that ſuch a ſtate was too happy for man, and by one of thoſe myſterious decrees of providence, which aſtoniſh and confound human calculations, he was doomed to ſuffer the moſt ſevere calamities that could be inflicted; the blows of adverſity were aimed at his heart. That cheerful and promiſing family, in the boſom of which he ſaw riſing the moſt engaging virtues, and from which he anticipated great happineſs, was doomed to wither away before him. He was to mark the ſlow but certain progreſs of death prevailing over lives that were dearer to him than his own.

Firſt, his ſecond ſon left a blank in this houſe of domeſtic felicity, and his death was accompanied with circumſtances that give it an intereſt which cannot fail to engage the warmeſt ſympathy of every feeling heart.

It

It was the reaction of virtuous principles warring againſt a degrading habit, which had prevailed over his good diſpoſitions, at a time when he was not under the eye of parental reſtraint. The grief, the agitation of contending paſſions, and the firm determination never again to deviate from the true path, ~~was~~ were too much for his phyſical powers to ſuſtain. The conflict threw him into a decline, life ebbed flowly away, but virtue continued to triumph. It was this victory over temptation, which had been accuſtomed to prevail, though purchaſed with his life, that rendered his death ſo bitter to his affectionate father, his ſorrow was the more deep and heartfelt, as it muſt be concealed from a cenſorious and unfeeling world. From this ſevere blow, he might have returned to the world, and while he lamented the loſs of a ſon, who diſplayed in his laſt moments a firmneſs of ſoul capable of raiſing his character to the higheſt rank in human excellence, he had ſtill many children of the faireſt promiſe.

But, alas, his firſt born was at that very time, ſlowly ſinking under a decline, with little or no hopes of a recovery. I am ſure I may, with confidence, appeal to all who knew this amiable young man, whether they ever ſaw one ſo univerſally beloved; the moſt affectionate of ſons, the kindeſt of brothers, joining to the ſtricteſt moral and religious principles, a heart expanding

to

to every benevolent thought, with a temper of uncommon ſweetneſs, his underſtanding was clear, and his views noble: never did a more excellent young man claim the ſympathy of his friends. Social, cheerful, and affectionate, he was loved by thoſe who knew him almoſt to enthuſiaſm, for his cheerfulneſs, ariſing from a mind at peace within itſelf, never failed to enliven his friends, and make them happy. Uniformly good humoured, eaſy in his converſation, of purity of diſpoſition never ſurpaſſed, and of habitual piety, he had been for ſome years the moſt pleaſant and inſtructive companion that his father ever enjoyed. Judge, then, of his feelings, and of the bitter tears which he ſhed over him, when the hand of a relentleſs diſeaſe was leading him to the grave. He could not behold the brighteſt of his ſublunary hopes vaniſhing away without unutterable anguiſh; the prop of his declining years, the protector of the family, to whom they might have applied with confidence, as their kind and faithful guardian, when from the courſe of nature, his own head ſhould be laid low. From this terrible calamity he never recovered entirely; the conſolations of religion were his, but the fondeſt hopes of his heart were blaſted, and although reſigned, the world had loſt its charms; his grief undermined his health, food was loathſome; he became too abſtemious, and laid the foundation of that afflicting diſorder, which brought him to the grave. His declining health appeared for a time rather a ſource of joy then of ſorrow,

and

and while employed in his uſual avocations, nothing appeared capable of intereſting his heart, till a new calamity taught him that he had ſtill duties to perform, and rouſing anew his tender affections, ſeemed to give him new life and energy, and again to awaken in him a wiſh to live. His eldeſt daughter was ſeized with a cruel diſorder, which threatened her ſpeedy diſſolution; all the tender feelings of the father were again called into action, every exertion was made for her recovery, and for a time with ſucceſs, but it was only a tranſient return to health. The remedies given for her recovery, undermined a conſtitution naturally delicate, and while they cured one diſorder, laid the foundation of another ſtill more fatal. He had the miſery to behold his amiable and affectionate child put to death by a diſorder at once painful and lingering. In her departure were ſeen, in the ſtrongeſt light, the peculiar bleſſings of a peaceful end; but, alas, her parents were overwhelmed by this new and terrible calamity; they were deprived of a diamond that gladdened their hearts, and poſſeſſing all thoſe excellencies of beauty and mind which they could deſire. Her figure was elegant, her action graceful, the timid modeſty of her countenance ſhewed the ingenuouſneſs of her ſoul. Her diſpoſition was ſo friendly, humane, and gentle, that it was impoſſible to know, and not to love her. Above all, ſhe had a well grounded aſſurance of the truth of chriſtianity, which ſmoothed her path to the grave. Endowed with uncommon

common ſweetneſs of temper, her premature death filled this place with deep concern. All ſighed at the departure of a perſon ſo richly gifted with every requiſite to make her lovely; no wonder that her parents ſeverely felt her loſs. A model of filial piety, ſhe ſpoke not of the progreſs of her diſeaſe, leſt ſhe ſhould give her parents uneaſineſs, and ſuffered without a murmur the moſt excruciating pain. It was at this period that ſhe diſplayed that chriſtian patience and fortitude, which reſulted from deep reflection, and habitual devotion, and which not only ſtrengthened the gentle qualities of her nature, but enabled her to ſubmit with meek reſignation to the divine will. "It has pleaſed Heaven," ſays her heart-broken father, "to take from me thoſe who knew "me beſt, and loved me moſt; thoſe whom parental af-"fection mellowed into the tendereſt friendſhip had en-"twined moſt cloſely around my heart. I, however, "claim no exemption from the calamities of life, and "pretend not to murmur at the diſpenſations of pro-"vidence; but the wounds made by this revulſion "will bleed. Where can I expect another James and "another Hannah on this ſide the grave, the ſources of "our moſt delightful anticipations, the ornament and "pride of our houſe." And again he obſerves, "young "was James in years, but mature in virtue. Since he "was capable of reflection, he never gave, by his con-"duct, a moment's pain to his parents, and the only con-"ſolation they can have for his loſs, is the hope that their

" their ſurviving children will imitate his example." And he obſerves of Hannah, if ever child repaid a pa-" rent's care, or merited their fondeſt love, it was her. " Beautiful, kind, unaſſuming, unaffected, ſhe was adored " and beloved by all her acquaintance, and almoſt doated " on by her parents."

I may be thought to dwell too long upon the death of thoſe excellent young perſons, but it gives me a melancholy enjoyment, and how ſeldom can we ſpeak ſo favourably of thoſe who are ſnatched to an early grave; never in all my experience have I found perſons of their age, ſo pure, ſo perfect, and may all who hear me pray to God, that he may give them grace to live ſuch a life and die such a death, ſince it is impoſſible to doubt of their eternal felicity.

The progreſs of the war threw upon Mr CARTWRIGHT ſo many duties, that we thought his mind would be ſo much occupied, as in time to divert his grief; he ceaſed indeed to complain, but his conſtitution was impaired, and his heart was broken With that dignity and firmneſs, which were the baſis of his character, he ſeemed to a ſtranger, to have recovered from his misfortunes, but the wounds which they inflicted, never ceaſed to bleed.

Never did he omit a particle of his duty by night and day, he was ready with his ſword and pen, to defend this happy province, and his inceſſant application to buſineſs,

ſineſs, undoubtedly aggravated his diſorder. A freſh calamity was threatening him, his fourth ſon, the moſt promiſing in point of intellectual talents of all, fell into a conſumption. "It pleaſed God," ſays this excellent man, "to take to himſelf my dear Stephen, and though "I had long expected this termination of his diſorder, "I was not the leſs affected by it, when it did arrive. "Our children ſeem to entwine themſelves about our "affections in proportion to their helpleſsneſs, and he "was withal ſo patient and conſiderate, that the ſepa- "ration was like tearing my heart ſtrings aſunder. "When I compare the preſent ſtate of my family with "what it was but three ſhort years ago, I am ready to "ſink under thoſe repeated viſitations, which have deſ- "troyed my faireſt proſpects of earthly happineſs."

Little more than a year intervened between Stephen's death and his own; yet during that period, he ſhrunk not from buſineſs; he attended his duties in the Legiſlature, he aſſiſted at the Board of Claims, and while ſcarcely able to articulate, or to ſwallow food ſufficient to ſupport him, he continued to perform the moſt important functions. At length the progreſs of his diſorder threatened his immediate diſſolution. He was prepared to die, but always alive to the claims of his family, he was willing to try every means to continue a little longer among them. With this intention, he went to Kamouraska to bathe in the ſea; this aggravated the ſymptoms, and on his return, he died in Montreal.

To

To ſtrangers, Mr. CARTWRIGHT was diſtant and reſerved; there appeared even a coldneſs in his manner at your firſt approach, but this vaniſhed by degrees, and his converſation was unrivalled in its power of varied amuſement, in rich diſplay of original obſervations and facility of quotation from the beſt claſſical authors, Engliſh and Latin. His opinion on literary productions was exceedingly correct, for he was an excellent judge of ſtyle, and his acute diſcernment eaſily detected a fallacy in reaſoning. He loved poetry, and was extremely ſenſible to its charms; he had even cultivated a poetical turn, which he poſſeſſed from nature, to a conſiderable extent. He reliſhed in a high degree all our beſt claſſical poems, and there was hardly a paſſage of excellence in Shakeſpeare, Milton, Dryden, Pope, Thomſon, and Goldſmith, or any other celebrated Poet, that he could not repeat. In ſocial diſcuſſion, he poſſeſſed powers of no common ſtamp, combining accuracy of ſcience with preciſion of method and richneſs of illuſtration. His character was bold, energetic, and firm. Seldom do we find ſuch a combination of eminent talents, ſuch extenſive knowledge added to ſo fine and excurſive an imagination. Poſſeſſing an innate love of juſtice and abhorrence of iniquity, he enforced upon all occaſions, the ſtricteſt integrity, an enemy to affectation and inſincerity, he deſpiſed intrigue of every kind, or what in modern language is termed addreſs.

From the ſteadineſs of his character, it naturally fol-

lowed, that he was conſtant in his attachments. Never did he deſert any of his friends, whom after trial and ſelection, he had preſſed to his heart. Enjoying his invaluable friendſhip without interruption from our firſt acquaintance, I feel his loſs as that of an elder brother; my wiſeſt counſellor and ſureſt protector to whom I could always apply for inſtruction and conſolation. With the warmeſt affection for his friends, he joined an eagerneſs to do them good which no difficulties could diminiſh; is it then to be wondered though he carry to the grave their love and veneration. In their boſoms his memory will be cheriſhed, while their hearts beat and their ſouls are capable of reflection.

His ſtrict probity and inviolable love of truth gave him an influence in the country which no other perſon ever attained; never did any man court popular applauſe leſs, and never was any perſon ſo much eſteemed by the general voice of the Province: It was a homage paid to virtue. Thoſe virtues threw a luſtre over his character, and it was the ſtudy of his life to transmit ſo precious an inheritance to his children. To accompliſh this moſt important object, and to give them a proper foundation, he laboured unceaſingly to inculcate the principles of our holy religion upon their hearts, which he juſtly deemed the root of all true virtue. His was a practical religion, tranfuſed into his life and governing his actions; not only directing his intercourſe with the world, and penetrating the retire-

ment

ment of the cloſet, but entering the ſecret receſſes of the heart. He was aware of his ſituation long before his death, but not a murmur eſcaped him, no repinings, no fretfulneſs, all was peace and compoſure, and a steady reſignation to the will of God His anxiety was only for his family and friends, for himſelf he was ready, nay, joyful, as going from a world of pain and ſuffering to another of infinite happineſs and duration.

In a letter addreſſed to his friend, but not to be opened till after his deceaſe, he ſays, " My infirmities " are increaſing ſo faſt upon me that it would be in- " fatuation in me to expect to live long, and I may ve- " ry poſſibly be called away in a few days. To me " this is no otherwiſe an object of anxiety than as it " may affect my family,

" Adieu my dear friend ; before this reaches you I " ſhall have finiſhed my earthly career, which has been " ſhortened by the afflicting events which have in the " three laſt years proſtrated my faireſt hopes. I ſhall, " without diſmay, reſign my ſoul into the hands of its " Creator, truſting to the merits of our Saviour for all " the bleſſings which chriſtianity offers to her friends."

Few ſuch examples of moral rectitude and chriſtian devotion can be offered to our imitation, and it is profitable to reflect upon them ; they are torches ſent to illumine our way, and to light us to a bleſſed immortality.

Inscription for the Tablet to be placed in the Protestant Church in Montreal.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY

OF

THE HON: RICHARD CARTWRIGHT,

WHOSE REMAINS ARE DEPOSITED IN THE PROTESTANT
BURIAL GROUND OF THIS CITY;
MEMBER OF HIS MAJESTY'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
OF
UPPER CANADA.
GIFTED BY DIVINE PROVIDENCE
WITH RARE ENDOWMENTS OF MIND,
IMPROVED BY A LIBERAL EDUCATION,
AND AN EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF MANKIND;
FIRM IN CHARACTER, AND WISE IN COUNCIL;
ENDEARED
TO THE BRAVE AND LOYAL INHABITANTS OF
UPPER CANADA,
BY HIS PUBLIC VIRTUE AND PRIVATE WORTH;
AND
LAMENTED AS ONE OF THEIR BRIGHTEST ORNAMENTS,
AND DISINTERESTED BENEFACTORS;
A KIND HUSBAND;
AN AFFECTIONATE AND EXAMPLARY PARENT;
A STEADY FRIEND;
FEELINGLY, BENEVOLENT, AND INFLEXIBLY JUST;
A TRUE PATRIOT,
AND
A PIOUS MAN.
HE DIED ON THE 27th OF JULY, 1815.
AGED, 56.

THE following short notice of the Hon. RICHARD CARTWRIGHT, drawn up by his friend the Honorable Thos. Scott, Chief Justice of Upper Canada; is so neatly characteristic, that its insertion must prove agreeable to all my readers. It is a tribute of Friendship, which does equal honor to the head and heart of the amiable writer:

" On the 27th day of July, at Montreal, DIED, much lamented, the " Honorable RICHARD CARTWRIGHT, Member of the Legislative " Council of the Province of Upper Canada, Colonel of the Militia, and " one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in that Province.

" *Richard Cartwright*, was born at Albany, then subject to the crown " of Great Britain, now a part of the United States of America. During " the revolutionary war, from Loyalty to his King, he left the place of his " birth, and emigrated into Upper Canada. After the conclusion of that " war, he entered into co-partnership in trade with the Honorable ROBERT " HAMILTON, of Queenstown, (a name that ought ever to be mentioned " with respect in this Province) and finally settled in the town of Kingston " as a merchant.

" That he was honorable and punctual in his Mercantile concerns, was " the least part of his praise—endowed by nature with a firm, dignified, " and discerning mind, instructed by a liberal education in his youth, ac- " quainted with mankind by observation and experience in his riper years, " he dedicated the fruits of that instruction, observation, and experience, " to the service of his Country, his Family and his Friends.

" Regardless of private emolument and care, when in competition with " his duty to the public, he allowed no obstacle to prevent him from a " faithful attendance to that duty as a Member of the Legislature of this " Province; in which capacity, zeal for the public good, tempered with " moderation and knowledge, was the governing principal of his conduct. " Nor was he restrained even when struggling with disease from per- " forming, when his country called for his aid, the important, but la- " borious services incident to the high station which he held in the mili- " tia of this Province.

" As the head of a family, his worth was above all praise, his affection, " tenderness, and care, endeared him to his children, while profiting by the " example of the moderation, piety, and goodness of the best of fathers.

" When

" When year after year it pleased Providence to remove by death, part " of his amiable family, the manly and christian fortitude which he then " displayed, will never be forgotten by his friends.

" The last act of his life was perhaps the greatest ; whilst laboring un- " der a disease, where no hope remained of a cure ; when conscious of death " approaching with a slow but sure pace, he did not complain, but sup- " ported by the remembrance of a well spent life, patiently waited to re- " sign his soul into the hands of a merciful Creator.

" Reader—whilst lamenting the death of a worthy man—follow his " example."

W. Gray, Printer, Montreal.

th, part
he then

ring un-
of death
out sup-
ed to re-

llow his